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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Gert **Auväärt** (Estonia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 33rd, 38th and 39th meetings, on 2 and 24 May and 13 June 2016. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/70/571);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/70/699);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/70/742/Add.8).

[1] A/C.5/70/SR.33, A/C.5/70/SR.38 and A/C.5/70/SR.39.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/70/L.38

4. At the 38th meeting, on 24 May, the representative of India informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached during the informal consultations on the item.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/70/L.38).

6. At the 39th meeting, on 13 June, the Secretary read out amendments to the draft resolution, by which:

(a) In operative paragraph 15, the figure 515,067,900 would be inserted before the words "dollars for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017", the figure 488,691,600 before the words "dollars for the maintenance of the Force", the figure 21,222,900 before the words "dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations" and the figure 5,153,400 before the words "dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy";

(b) In operative paragraph 16, the figure 85,844,650 would be inserted before the words "dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2016";

(c) In operative paragraph 18, the figure 429,223,250 would be inserted before the words "dollars for the period from 1 September 2016 to 30 June 2017" and the figure 42,922,325 before the words "dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246";

(d) The corresponding amounts in paragraphs 17 and 19 would be updated accordingly.

7. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement and requested a recorded vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution as orally amended. The Chair announced that a recorded vote had also been requested on the draft resolution as orally amended, as a whole.

8. Also at the 39th meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.5/70/L.38, as orally amended, as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 were retained by a recorded vote of 94 to 3, with 50 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq,

[2] The delegation of the Republic of Korea subsequently indicated that it had intended to abstain.

Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.5/70/L.38, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 146 to 3, with 0 abstentions (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

9. Before the adoption of the draft resolution as a whole, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) (see A/C.5/70/SR.39).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Lebanon (see A/C.5/70/SR.39).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

11. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2236 (2015) of 21 August 2015, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2016,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 69/302 of 25 June 2015,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005, 60/278 of 30 June 2006, 61/250 A of 22 December 2006, 61/250 B of 2 April 2007, 61/250 C of 29 June 2007, 62/265 of 20 June 2008, 63/298 of 30 June 2009, 64/282 of 24 June 2010, 65/303 of 30 June 2011, 66/277 of 21 June 2012, 67/279 of 28 June 2013, 68/292 of 30 June 2014 and 69/302,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011, 66/264 of 21 June 2012, 69/307 of 25 June 2015 and 70/___ of __ 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 2016, including the contributions outstanding in the

[1] A/70/571 and A/70/699.
[2] A/70/742/Add.8.

amount of 118.8 million United States dollars, representing some 2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 56 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses* deep concern that Israel did not comply with resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298, 64/282, 65/303, 66/277, 67/279, 68/292 and 69/302;

5. *Stresses* once again that Israel should strictly abide by resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298, 64/282, 65/303, 66/277, 67/279, 68/292 and 69/302;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

8. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289, 66/264, 69/307 and 70/___;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

13. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 C, paragraph 21 of resolution 62/265, paragraph 19 of resolution 63/298, paragraph 18 of

resolution 64/282, paragraph 15 of resolution 65/303, paragraph 13 of resolution 66/277, paragraph 13 of resolution 67/279, paragraph 13 of resolution 68/292 and paragraph 14 of resolution 69/302, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;[3]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

15. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 515,067,900 dollars for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, inclusive of 488,691,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 21,222,900 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 5,153,400 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

16. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 85,844,650 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2016, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246 of 23 December 2015, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2016, as set out in its resolution 70/245 of 23 December 2015;

17. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,406,640 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,041,530 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 302,680 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 62,430 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 429,223,250 dollars for the period from 1 September 2016 to 30 June 2017, at a monthly rate of 42,922,325 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2016 and 2017, as set out in its resolution 70/245, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

19. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 12,033,260 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 10,207,670 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 1,513,420 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 312,170 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

[3] A/70/571.

20. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraphs 16 and 18 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount 23,826,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2015, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015, as set out in its resolution 70/245;

21. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 23,826,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2015, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 20 above;

22. *Decides* that the increase of 948,300 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2015 shall be added to the credits from the amount of 23,826,900 dollars referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21 above;

23. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

24. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

25. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".